

Duane Ehleringer

Note:

Please replace my prior submitted comment with this new copy correcting misspellings

To Whom it may concern:

I write in support of Vancouver Lake being selected, in this upcoming work cycle, by the Department of Ecology to receive Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) analysis. I would go further stating I am in strong support of having the Flushing Channel, Vancouver Lake, and Lake River be included/treated as one continuous body of water for analysis in receiving one written TMDLs.

These waters prior to filling of lands after the 1930s' acted as one cohesive unit flowing from the Columbia River to Vancouver Lake down Lake River and then returning to the Columbia River (see doc. 1). It is recorded in USGS documentation Vancouver Lake was 20 feet deep and full of Sturgeon in the early 1900s'. There were no recorded issues with these bodies of water prior to the diking/infilling.

Simple observation has shown me and others the solution to most of the 303d category 5 identified items within these listed waters has more to do with a severely diminished water flow rate from the Columbia River, poor farming techniques, and failing septic systems. PCB's identified within Vancouver Lake and Lake River were found in 2014 to come from upstream Burnt Bridge Creek and probably from annual street run off (per DOE publication No. 14-03-101). Allowing the Flushing Channel to become once again the dominate water flow into the lake in combination with controlling chemical discharge upstream, and deepening portions of the lake to maintain a minimum 10 foot depth year round would resolve all know issues. The USGS water flow meter located on the North end of the Columbia Slough across from the entry to the Flushing Channel shows the potential of water flow into the lake (recording on average 1,000 cfs with an average width of 150 feet). This is also supported through water flow analysis through Lake River in the USGS "Water and Nutrients Budgets for Vancouver Lake" (Scientific Investigations Report 2014-5201).

I participated in the recent web-seminar. During the seminar I identified to the moderator a strong solution to acquiring lands to widen the flushing channel upwards of 1,000 feet in width. In a private message, during the seminar, they encouraged forwarding this potential solution as part of my comments when I wrote in support of selecting Vancouver Lake for TMDLs.

The Port of Vancouver owns the Flushing Channel. Port lands adjacent to the Flushing Channel are known as Parcel 3. Contacting the Port, I inquired on the amount of wetlands found within this parcel. Documentation forwarded states there are 74.45 acres of small acreages of wetlands found within this parcel (see doc. 2). I suggest these wetlands be exchanges for lands adjacent to the current Flushing Channel allowing for the Flushing Channel to be enlarged to approximately 1,000 feet. Encouraging the Port to do the exchange by lowering the now required exchange rate for mitigating wetlands from creation of 5 acres:1 acre exchanged to maybe 1.5 acres creation:1 acres exchanged.

- All parties and the environment would benefit in such a proposal (see doc. 3);
- The Port would have consolidate developable lands with limited restrictions
- The smaller separated wetlands would be combined to allow for a wider Flushing Channel

- The wider Flushing Channel would resolve water flow through the Flushing Channel Vancouver Lake, and Lake River, saving all these bodies of waters
- An additional desire by Fish and Wildlife to open up Buckmire Slough for natural tidal flow would be achieved through Vancouver Lake
- With a park adjacent to the Flushing Channel the now Port lands adjacent to the Flushing Channel become very valuable real estate for future development to benefit the community.

I live in Oregon, but come north to sail on Vancouver Lake because of the good winds and sheltered water Vancouver Lake affords sailors. I have sailed in waters from San Diego, California to include Santa Cruz and San Francisco Bay to as north as Whidbey Island, Washington on the West coast. There are no waters for a small dingy sailor between San Diego, California and Lake Washington close to a metropolis other than Vancouver Lake. These bodies of waters are a true region treasure and if pollutants are addressed could support endangered salmonoid fry; create/improve wetlands for wildlife such as the sandhill crane and other migratory and indigenous fowl species, and have both large recreation value to the community as well as great economical value to the region.

Please select Vancouver Lake and these other Category 5 water for this current selection cycle for TMDLs. There is no negatives just positives for the environment, citizens, and the local economy.

Respectfully,

Duane Ehleringer

This was how wide the opening was to Vancouver Lake in the 1930's

This lake was filled in for Agriculture farming



Doc 1

Aerial view of Vancouver Lake in the 1930's

Figure 3.12-2. Delineated Wetlands within Parcel 3

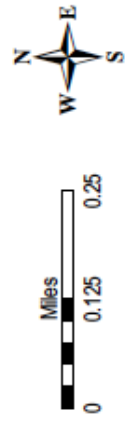


Legend

- Project Area
 - Mitigation/Habitat Creation Area
- Jurisdiction**
- Department of Ecology and City of Vancouver
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology and City of Vancouver
- Cowardin Wetland Classification**
- PEM - Palustrine Emergent
 - PFO - Palustrine Forested
 - PFO/SS - Palustrine Forested/Scrub-Shrub
 - PSS - Palustrine Scrub-Shrub
 - PSS/EMC - Palustrine Scrub-Shrub/Emergent (Seasonally Flooded)

Source: JD White (2006), Clark County (2006), WSDOT (2005)

Map Prepared: September 2007



Potential areas of Increased Water flow from Wider Flushing Channel

